
John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

3-31-1969

To: Jack Sells

John Allen Chalk

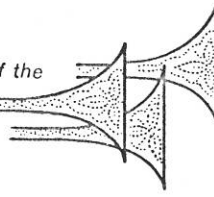
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March 31, 1969

Mr. Jack Sells
Jack Sells Drugs
Cookeville, Tennessee

Dear Jack:

The impressions of last week-end are still very fresh and vivid. While they are I want to put on paper some of the things you and I discussed on the way home from Richmond, Indiana.

There is a great spiritual need in the church today. Our present needs I think, can be summarized in five areas. One, we need a clearer vision of the church's task, Two, we need more practical implementation of the church's Biblical nature. Three, we must establish in-depth personal relationships with God for church members. These are individuals who have not had an authentic Biblical union with Christ and who have no profound awareness of the regenerating, indwelling, enabling Holy Spirit. Four, there needs to be a clarification of this "in-depth personal relationship with God" for those within our churches who already are New Testament Christians. These people need enriched prayer life and they also need a better understanding and a fuller implementation of the Biblical principles of "the Spirit-filled life." Five, we need to equip every Christian for his or her unique individual ministry for Christ and to the glory of God.

I firmly believe that these needs can be met, in a great part, through the use of a renewal center, a retreat center for adult couples in the church at such a place and in such a week-end and even week-long summer institutes or retreats. The following five things could occur: one, in-depth Bible study with maximum opportunity for open, honest truth questing. We must begin to put flesh on the bones of our faith, we must do more intelligent and devoted study of our faith if we are to see it continue and increase. Two, this kind of center would provide the opportunity for small groups to study and worship and fellowship together so that maximum growth of all individuals involved would occur, making them more Christ-like and making them more mature "persons." Three, such a center would provide concentrated and experimental worship of God in these small groups, as well as individually. Four, such a center would create greater personal sensitivity to God, man, and one's vocation. In such a place, the real meaning of being a Christian businessman, or a Christian doctor, or a Christian lawyer, or a Christian factory worker would begin to be clearer in the minds of those who attend such retreats. Five, a center like this would encourage men and women to become more human, in the sense of a daily, growing realization of God's image and likeness in their own lives.

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I propose that we have a meeting of some very sensitive men at the Yokefellow Institute in Richmond, Indiana within the very next few months. This meeting would include men like Prentice Meador, Roy Osborne, Archie Crenshaw, Jack Sells, Al Jaynes, Andrew Hairston, Eugene Lawton, Jennings Davis, Don Finto, Wesley Reagan, Dwain Evans, Bob Mason, Jon Jones, Vernon Boyd, Norman Adamson, Larry Swaim, David Graf, Carl Thompson, Woodie Morrison, Bob Scott, Hugh Tiner, Roy Willingham and Bob Bailey. This group would be led in a retreat by Sam Emerick of the Institute and Dr. Elton Trueblood. We would deal with the subject of renewal for the church and for the Christian. At the conclusion of such a retreat, a long period of time would be provided for this group to discuss whether such retreat centers ought to be encouraged among our brethren, and out of that discussion could grow the direction we need to take next.

I will be writing Sam Emerick in the next few days to get a date for such a retreat. I wish you would share this material with Al Jaynes and any one else you think mature enough and sensitive enough to consider the direction we ought to take with such an effort.

Above all, begin your own personal schedule of devotional discipline so that the strength that comes from the daily walk with Christ can be even plainer in our own lives, so that we can share that strength with our brothers and sisters.

Your brother,

John Allen Chalk
Radio Evangelist (and Friend)

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